

DECORATING COMPANIES

The history of the decorating companies until now has been something of a mystery, and even with the following trade journal quotes, many questions concerning their association with the glass factories remain unanswered. However, we have a clearer picture now on the history of the Oriental, Pioneer and Mueller staining works. These are reprinted on the following pages, along with the limited information we could find on a handful of other ruby-staining and amber-staining firms. Also quoted are a few news accounts and even the contents of the contract where Anna Mueller sold her dead husband's patent for his ruby-staining formula to National Glass Co.

AF—*The American Flint*
AGR—*American Glass Review* (current industry journal)
AGW—*American Glass Worker*
AP&GR—*American Pottery and Glassware Reporter*
C&GJ—*Crockery & Glass Journal*
CG&L—*China, Glass & Lamps*

IG&PW—*Illustrated Glass & Pottery World*
G&PW—*Glass & Pottery World*
Glass—*Glass* (a short lived periodical after 1900)
NGB—*National Glass Budget*
P&G—*Pottery & Glass* (another short-lived periodical)
P&GR—*Pottery and Glassware Reporter*

ORIENTAL GLASS COMPANY

Pittsburgh, Pa.

1/1/1891 C&GJ

[In Boston, USHER & OSBORNE, a manufacturers' representative, handled the wares of Oriental Glass Co., Pittsburgh and the W.H. Tatler Decorating Co., Trenton, NJ, among other non-decorating specialists—Northwood, Atterbury, Crystal, Model Flint, etc.]

5/20/1891 CG&L

The Oriental Glass Co., South Eighth and Sarah streets, make a full line of ruby and colored glass goods, which in point of beauty and delicacy of finish have no superior. Their assortment includes tableware in ruby, malachite, flaviate and assorted tints, engraved and decorated glass-ware, as well as ruby lantern globes for railroad use, and they are all of a quality and finish such as the best skill and most complete manufacturing equipment can make them.

5/27/1891 CG&L

The Oriental Glass Co., consisting of C.W.E. Mueller and H.E. Mueller, has been dissolved by the death of H.E. Mueller. The stock of the deceased has been purchased by Andrew Stock. The firm has been reorganized under the style of Oriental Glass Co., consisting of C.W.E. Mueller, Andrew Stack [sic] and Emil Mueller, who will continue the business at the old stand, corner South Eighth and Sarah streets, of ornamental ruby table and bar ware, also lantern globes, etc.

5/25/1892 CG&L (Partial)

... Oriental Glass Co., Eighth and Sarah streets, South-side, are hav- ... fair run of trade, and the prospects are bright for an in- ... This company make an elegant article of ruby stained ... goods, bar ware and novelties of various sorts, and they ... best of facilities for doing the work. They are getting out ... nearly every day.

1/4/1893 CG&L

The Oriental Glass Co., Eighth and Sarah streets, South-side, have had no shutdown, but continued working steadily all along. They have still enough of work to do, filling old orders and getting some new ones too. The year just past was a good one with them and they are well pleased with the results. They are busy on new patterns for the spring and will have a largely increased variety to show the trade.

3/13/1893

Pittsburgh POST GAZETTE death notice MUELLER— On Friday, March 10, 1893, at 12:30 P.M., C.W.E. MUELLER, aged 65 years and 3 weeks.

4/19/1893 CG&L

The Oriental Glass Co. find trade still improving and though not rushed they note a fair increase in orders each succeeding day. They have many handsome new designs in ruby stained and ornamental glassware, including table glass, bar goods, water sets, etc. and the trade will find among them desirable offerings for the present season. The factory is on full all the time.

5/24/1893 CG&L

The Oriental Glass Co., Eighth and Sarah streets, South-side, find more life to trade than there was before and orders for some of their specialties are coming in more freely. This place is a center of attraction in ruby stained and ornamental glassware and the stock they are showing now excels in beauty and variety any put forward before.

12/20/1893 CG&L

The Oriental Glass Co., Eighth and Sarah streets, South-side, are running along with good success and have been quite busy on orders for some time. Their make of ruby stained glassware is much esteemed by the trade and consumers and they never have any complaints about it.

1/3/1894 CG&L

The Oriental Glass Co., Eighth and Sarah streets, South-side, have out several elegant new designs in ruby stained ware and their assortment generally is full of brilliant effects in this popular ware. Trade is reasonably good with them and improving right along.

1/10/1894 CG&L

The Greensburg Glass Co., of Greensburg, Pa., are represented by A. I. Duval in Rooms 166 and 167. Col. J.H. Moore, secretary and treasurer of the company, is also on hand to receive visitors. The "Murano" is their newest pattern and the design is most pleasing and of brilliant effect. In this as in all their lines there is no copying from old patterns of innocuous desuetude, everything is new, fresh and original. The "Florida" is a bright and popular pattern, of which they make a full line; they have it plain and also etched so that the flower is a prominent feature of the design—looks like silver. The Princess lamp, also of the "Florida" pattern, is a combination of lamp and candlestick, being provided with a fount which when removed leaves place for a candle. This is a very pretty and graceful article. The "Corona" is another pattern of which there are about 75 pieces. It is a fine seller and dealers want it all the time. The figured part is imitation cut and they have it plain and engraved. There are tankards in this pattern from a half pint to a half gallon, also squat jugs and a host of other articles, including a handsome wine set with glass tray. No. 200 is a plain line and a very extensive one too. In stemware there is the "Continental," "Mitchell," Fifth avenue, Hoffman House and several other styles. In the inner room they have a display of **ruby stained, enameled and decorated glassware, the work of the Oriental Glass Co., of the Southside, over Greensburg patterns.** The "Corona" and "Florida"—the latter in bi-color—show remarkably well and the exhibit is of wonderful beauty, especially the hand-painted decorations and enamel work, which cannot be beaten the world over. On the whole the Greensburg Glass Co. do themselves proud in this exhibit, which reflects great credit on Col. Moore, who was the originator and deviser of some of the most notable effects.

1/3/1895

The Oriental Glass Co. . . . are now in shape for the spring trade, with some of the finest and handsomest goods in ruby stain, gold and enamel decorations ever shown. . . . the "TACOMA" pattern of the Greensburg Glass Co., beautiful in its original crystal form, is doubly so when successfully decorated; . . .

3/13/1895

The Oriental . . . are working on . . . the TACOMA and CORONA of the Greensburg Glass Co. . . .

1/17/1894 CG&L

The Oriental Glass Co., Eighth and Sarah streets, Southside, surpass all their former records in the line of ornamental glass they have ready for this season's trade. It embraces ruby-stained, enameled and decorated ware and the effects cannot be surpassed for beauty or brilliancy. They have a large variety of patterns to show too, in table and bar ware as well as novelties of several kinds. Samples can be seen at their office as above and also at Room 167 Monongahela House among the exhibits of the Greensburg Glass Co., mention of which was made last week.

9/25/1895 CG&L

The Oriental Glass Co., corner of Eighth and Sarah streets, Southside, have everything in nice shape at their factory, getting out lots of ware and selling and shipping it about as fast as produced. They are also doing splendidly at their two stands in the Exposition—one at the extreme west end of the gallery in the main building, the other about the

center of Machinery Hall. Here they show full assortments of ware in all styles of decoration, and there is always a crowd around each stand, eager to get pieces with their names on. The display is creditable to both the Oriental Co. and the Exposition.

5/27/1896 CG&L

Andrew Stock, of the Oriental Glass Co., having lined the insides of all his numerous friends and well wishers with ruby wine on the recent occasion of his silver wedding, has turned his attention to the manufacture of ruby glassware with all the vigor of his youth.

11/1897 IG&PW

THE ORIENTAL GLASS COMPANY, Eighth and Sarah streets, Southside, are manufacturers of rub and amber stained glassware, and are also extensively engaged in gold and enamel work and other high class decorations on glass. Their make ranks with the best European products in this line, and they have a variety extensive enough to cover all possible requirements. They are the pioneer establishment in the manufacture of this kind of ware in America, and have achieved great success in it.

12/1897 IG&PW

THE ORIENTAL GLASS COMPANY, of this city, occupy a prominent place in the manufacture of such ware [colored and decorated glass], and it is of high standing with the trade everywhere. Their assortment includes table and bar goods, vases, novelties and bric-a-brac, in gold, amber and ruby stain, as well as enamel and flower decorations.

1/1898 IG&PW

THE ORIENTAL GLASS COMPANY—of Eighth and Sarah streets, South Side, will have several new patterns to show the coming month, in ruby, amber and other tints, and decorated in gold, enamel and engraved effects. The season just closed has been a most prosperous one with them, and they look forward with confidence to the one about to open.

1/1898 IG&PW (partial)

[Listing companies which have their own showrooms in the Pittsburgh area, and thus do not display at the Monongahela House] . . . Oriental Glass Company, Eighth and Sarah streets, South Side; Mueller Glass Staining Company, 1811 Sidney street, South Side; L.J. Rodgers, 1714 Sidney street, South Side . . .

2/1898 IG&PW

THE ORIENTAL GLASS COMPANY, Eighth and Sarah streets, South Side, have had a big demand for their goods the last three or four months, and the spring season has opened with excellent promise. They are making an elegant line of emerald ware, besides other kinds of decorations, gold band and edge, ruby and amber stained, in all the latest patterns of the year. They claim to be in advance of foreign manufacturers in the decorative art, and certainly a comparison of their goods with the imported ones would seem to bear this claim out.

3/1898 IG&PW

THE ORIENTAL GLASS COMPANY, Eighth and Sarah streets, Southside, have had a right good run on their elegant patterns in gold and enameled decorations, and their factory has been kept busily employed with a full complement of hands since the first of the year. They have a big assortment

of new designs in ruby and amber stained, too, and pride themselves on their engraving, than which they think no better can be found on the market.

4/1898 IG&PW

THE ORIENTAL GLASS COMPANY, Eighth and Sarah streets, Southside, have been doing a very satisfactory trade the last month. They make the very highest grade of decorated and enameled glassware, and their product is not surpassed in beauty and finish by that of any other country. Buyers who get their supplies here once are certain to become permanent customers of the company.

5/19/1898 C&GJ

The Oriental Glass Co. report their factory fairly busy with gold decorations and ruby ware, and that orders for souvenir goods are beginning now to come in. They have had a number of applications from glass manufacturers to finish up contracts that had been partly completed in an unsatisfactory manner by inferior establishments. The Oriental has expert kilnmen and workmen, and the reputation of their work for elegance and durability is the best. The color of their ruby is perfect, and their gold decors are artistically put on, and do not come off.

5/1898 IG&PW

THE ORIENTAL GLASS COMPANY, Eighth and Sarah streets, South Side, have had an unusually good run on gold and enameled decorations the last few months, and it is slacking off none yet. They have these on crystal glass as well as on the emerald body so popular this season, and show a full line of ruby and amber stained in plain and engraved as well. They have all the popular patterns of this year in stock, and with their ample capacity, both for decorating and burning, are always able to meet orders with promptness.

6/1/1898 (trade journal not recorded)

The Oriental Glass Company reports trade improving in fine ruby and gold decorated goods, especially in novelties, wine and fancy water sets. Some new color effects have been introduced in enameled sets.

6/30/1898 C&GJ

The Oriental Glass Co. are having good trade among the large summer resorts in their well-known lines of ruby, enameled, and decorated goods—the character and reputation of their goods give them a special demand this year, when there has been a considerable quantity of trashy decorations put on the market.

7/1898 IG&PW

The Oriental Glass Company, of Eighth and Sarah streets, Southside, are making a special drive in green and gold this season and have met with great success in the line. The green is of the purest emerald and set off with the rich color of the gold is of elegant effect. They also continue to make an extensive assortment of emerald decorations and engraved ruby, and in everything in the way of fancy and ornamental glassware their stock is very complete.

8/11/1898 C&GJ

The Oriental Glass Co. (decorators) say they are experiencing some improvement in the demand for ruby, and that their gold work is fully holding its own. . . . Gold decorations continue popular but the trade wants them put

on with taste and in a permanent manner. Hence, a reasonable advance is cheerfully paid for such work, over the cheap experiments that have been foisted on the market this past year.

7/27/1899 C&GJ

The new combination of ruby, emerald and gold, put on a number of specialties and lines of the latest patterns of tableware by the Oriental Glass Co., is proving popular, and orders are coming in quite liberally for this decoration. Their general trade is reported keeping up well and they have their regular force fully employed to meet the demands.

8/31/1899 C&GJ

The Oriental Glass Co. say their new decorated lines are meeting with an excellent reception and that their plant is actively busy on the demands of their patrons.

2/1900 CG&PR

ASKED FOR A SETTLEMENT.—A SECOND petition has been filed against the Bohemian Art Glass Co., at Atlantic City, N.J. The firms holding claims against the company in excess of the \$1,900 named as the debts of the concern are the United States Glass Co., Geo. Borgfeldt & Co., Oriental Glass Co., and Roubieck & Zobel.

2/20/1902 C&GJ

The Oriental Glass Co. are now putting on the market six new decorative patterns in tableware that are worthy of special attention—the two United States Glass Co.'s beautiful new patterns 150 77 and 150 78, in ruby, Duncan & Miller's two new attractive patterns, 50 and 51 in ruby and gold; A.H. Heisey's popular patterns 335 and 337 in ruby and gold band; and the Tarentum Glass Co.'s excellent new pattern 902 in ruby. . . .

3/27/1902

The Oriental Glass Co. say their new decorated lines are moving quite satisfactorily at the close of March, and that their trade is showing increasing proportions from day to day. They are showing a number of lines of very attractive decors in ruby and gold, colors and gold, and pure gold.

4/10/1902

The Oriental Glass Co. here report a good spring demand for their new decorated lines, and they are operating their full capacity on current orders.

7/24/1902 C&GJ

Decorated glassware has had a fairly good movement this summer. The Oriental Glass Co. have been kept busy and still have quite a line of orders on their books. They will ship a carload during the present week. They are now receiving from day to day, numerous small orders from various summer resorts to be marked and presented as souvenir articles. Ruby in combination with gold and with canary still holds its' popularity. Green seems to have lost much of its' popularity in glassware. The Oriental reports its' summer business fully normal and its' decorating plant is in full operation.

10/1902 IG&PW

Emil Mueller, a well known glass maker who with Andrew Stock composed the Oriental Glass Co., of this city, died at his residence on the South Side on September 20, in the

forty-fifth year of his age, Mr. Mueller was an expert in the art of glass staining and decoration and with his partner built up a large business here. He was for many years an active member of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, where funeral services were held. He is survived by his wife, formerly Miss Emily Podoman.

10/23/1902 C&GJ

The Oriental Glass Co. closed an unusually good business at the Pittsburgh Exposition last Saturday—the best in their history of a good many years' display there. They report general trade as exceptionally good. Emil Mueller, of this company, who was prominent in the glass decorating field and one of the discoverers of the ruby process of decorating, died a short time since. He was a skillful, active manager in their manufacturing department whose presence will be greatly missed.

2/5/1903

Lines in the very best ruby-stained and decorated goods are now being shown by the Oriental Glass Co., South Eighth and Sarah Streets, Pittsburg. They are exhibiting Specimens in opal, Ivorina-verde, ruby-mat and gold, crystal-mat and gold and ruby-engraved souvenirs. Mr. C.W.E. Mueller, of the company, is well known as the originator of ruby-stained glass in America. The firm are now showing some remarkable lines, and buyers will do very well to drop in and look them over.

2/19/1903 C&GJ

The Oriental Glass Co. are showing some unusually fine lines of decorated glass this year. Rubymat and gold, ruby engraved, and Ivorina-verde are among their new samples.

7/9/1903 C&GJ

The Oriental Glass Co. report an improvement the past week in their summer resort trade. The past month has been unfavorable for business at seaside resorts and watering places and trade in souvenir decorated glass has been rather quiet. Business, however, has been fairly well sustained at the Oriental this year, making a satisfactory average for the half year. Their ruby in combination with gold and with canary is fully holding its popularity in the various attractive new lines the Oriental is putting out this year.

9/3/1903 C&GJ

The Oriental Glass Co. are again this year exhibiting at the Pittsburgh Exposition, now in progress. They are making an unusually fine showing of decorated lines and pieces this fall. They have many new decorations that are peculiarly attractive, and are using all the choicest new patterns of the various manufacturers, so that every desirable piece or set, dressed in the Oriental's artistic garb, can be obtained from them. . . .

10/1/1903 C&GJ

The Oriental Glass Co. are showing an innovation in their decorations this fall in the way of silver decorations on some of their pieces and sets. These are represented to be untarnishable. They are new, and give a soft artistic effect.

2/18/1904 C&GJ

The Oriental Glass Co. are finding a satisfactory business for the season in the new combinations of ruby, gold and enameled flowers, and ruby with gold and yellow. . . .

7/5/1905 DIRECTORY OF THE POTTERY AND GLASS TRADES (listing)

Oriental Glass Co., corner South Eighth and Sarah Streets, Pittsburg. Andrew Stock; Originators of ruby stain work in America. Ruby, amber, crystal and gold, green and gold glassware.

8/1905 G&PW

The Oriental Glass Company continues to add new accounts and to book large repeat orders from dealers all over America who find their ruby stain goods the best and quickest sellers possible to obtain. They continually put out new shapes and ideas. In souvenir assortments the Oriental has hardly a rival.

1/1906 G&PW

The Oriental Glass Company, of Pittsburg, have only good things to report so far this year. The ruby stain and the other decorated lines of this popular house never seem to weaken in public favor.

8/1906 G&PW

The Oriental Glass Company maintains its prestige in ruby stain and souvenir fancy glass.

3/1907 G&PW

The Oriental Glass Company seem to gain new prestige in their specialty of ruby stain with every season. They use only the best obtainable flint pot furnace glass and are such large buyers that they are able to control some very attractive patterns. The four-piece sets and seven-piece water and berry sets are shown in various decorations. No. 88 Coronation in ruby and gold; Dazzler No. 65 [probably Duncan & Miller #65] in gold and flower decoration; Acme ruby and decorated; "Best Yet," embossed and decorated. Their lines of souvenir and engraved goods in opau [sic] and ruby are known the length and breadth of the land.

8/6/1907 PITTSBURGH GAZETTE TIMES
DEATH SUMMONS ANDREW STOCK, SR.

President of Oriental Glass Co. Falls,
a Victim to His First Illness.

LEADING CHURCH WORKER

Without having experienced the slightest illness in his 62 years seven months and 15 days of life, Andrew Stock, Sr., president of the Oriental Glass Company was suddenly stricken with a stroke of apoplexy yesterday morning at 10:20 o'clock, while seated at his desk in his office. A carriage was summoned and he was taken to his residence, 55 Pius street, where he died at 1:30 p.m. Because of his supposed robust health his death came as a shock to his many friends, especially those on the South Side, where he had resided since birth, and was well known on account of his active interest in church work.

Mr. Stock was born on December 9, 1844, and attended St. Michael's parochial schools. After graduation he entered the Jones & Laughlin mills where he learned to be a roll turner, at which he worked for over 29 years. In 1891, with W.E. and Emil Mueller, he organized the Oriental Glass Company. After the death of W.E. Mueller, two years later,

Mr. Stock became senior member and president of the firm, and when Emil Mueller died in 1901, he became sole proprietor.

While still a schoolboy, Mr. Stock joined St. Michael's Roman Catholic church, Pius street, within a few doors of his home, and of this congregation he was a member until the time of his death. He was president of the St. Michael's Orphan asylum board of directors for over 26 years, and was an officer of this board for nine years before that. He served one term in council and was treasurer of the school board of the Twenty-seventh ward for three years. He was also a member of St. Michael's conference, St. Michael's casino, St. Vincent's Literary association, the C.M.B.A., branch No. 49, St. Aloysius' society, Knights of St. George and of the Germania Saengerbund. Mr. Stock was a director of the People's Trust Company, South Side, and was interested in many of the smaller business institutions of the South Side.

He was married May 9, 1871 to Mary Philomena Fisher in St. Michael's church, and is survived by his widow, three sons, Andrew, superintendent of the Oriental Glass works; Edward and Aloysius [?], three daughters, Elizabeth M. Clementine, a sister in a convent at South Auburn, Neb.; Rosa and Elinore, two brothers, Paul and John, two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Zippenfeld, Mrs. Joseph Oswald, and two grandchildren.

He will be buried on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock from St. Michael's church, where solemn high mass of requiem will be said. Interment will be made in St. Michael's cemetery.

1/1908 G&PW

Oriental Glass Co., Eighth and Sarah Streets. — The home of the original stain where souvenirs, table sets in opal, ruby decorations are to be found in profusion, is sought by all classes of buyers. When large quantities of the ware are sought by big Germany, it is a proof of American quality and skill of workmanship.

4/1909 P&G

Pittsburg, Pa. — The Oriental Glass Co. rarely experience a dull week. Known the country over as the "originators of the ruby stein," [sic] they have become also the headquarters of makers of souvenir goods.

1/19/1911

Six lines of decorated tableware are being shown by the Oriental Glass Co. in ruby and crystal, ruby and gold, gold and crystal, and solid gold treatments. These lines are from the Duncan & Miller, New Martinsville, Fostoria, United States, Tarentum and Westmoreland Specialty factories. A number of specialties in souvenir goods are being shown in new treatments.

1/4/1912 C&GJ

The Oriental Glass Co. has developed a new white color which gives promise of taking the place of opal and ivory treatments. It is being used on the new souvenir lines now being assembled. The Oriental is decorating table lines from the New Martinsville, W. Va. plant, Duncan & Miller Co., and United States Glass Co.

1/8/1912 CG&L [Advertisement]

ORIENTAL GLASS COMPANY, PITTSBURG, PA.

Originators of

RUBY STAIN WORK in the United States.

Office and Works, South Eighth and Sarah Sts.

2/8/1912

The new "Koral" glass used in souvenir specialties by the Oriental Glass Co. is much whiter than . . .

5/2/1912 trade journal

The Oriental Glass Co. Reported a strong demand for the decorated lines of the Duncan & Miller Co. and also for their new "milk" glass.

10/17/1912 (partial)

The Oriental Glass Co., manufacturers of dec- . . . tableware and specialties, is maintaining two . . . and working booths at the Pittsburgh Exposition . . . season. The company if one the original . . . having shown its lines here when the Ex- . . . opened, over twenty years ago.

6/5/1913

The decorated souvenir assortments created by the Oriental Glass Co. are having a big sale this season. The business now on the books of this concern is the heaviest in ten years. The Cora glass specialties are proving especially popular with the summer resort dealers.

1913 KELLER'S ANNUAL OF THE POTTERY AND GLASSWARE TRADE

[Listing New York offices of U.S. and foreign manufacturers] . . .

Oriental Glass Co., 64 Park Place; Paul Joseph hth and Sarah Streets, Pittsburg. And

PIONEER GLASS COMPANY

Pittsburgh, Pa. (Knoxville)

Absorbed by L.J. RODGERS

1/13/1892 CG&L

(see PIONEER'S VICTORIA)

Mr. Jos. A. Harris, of the Greensburg Glass Co., Greensburg, Pa., is holding forth at Room 167, with a new line of table goods which the trade will do well to see. The "Victoria" pattern, made by this company is the nicest line of goods on the market, and among the specialties in it is an oil or vinegar can with glass spout which we have not seen elsewhere. The "Victoria" line is a very extensive one and worthy of the notice of all buyers.

10/5/1892 CG&L

The Pioneer Glass Co. of this city, is now owned solely by the Messrs. Werling, long known in the ruby-stained trade. They have a large new plant in Knoxville, a suburb of the city [Pittsburgh], and are running it with a larger capacity than ever before. They have the biggest trade also they ever had, and the best of prospects for the coming season.

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